

Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

MBC OFFICERS — Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention include (from left) Michael Weeks, assistant recording secretary and pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Olive Branch; Gus Merritt, recording secretary and retired pastor from Newton; Clarence Cooper, president and pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada; Gayle Alexander, second vice-president and pastor of First Church, Baldwyn; Joel Medina, first vice-president and pastor of Iglesia Internacional Los Americas in Carthage. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Grenada pastor elected MBC president

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, was elected November 1 as the new president of the state's largest religious body by acclamation of messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) at First Church, Jackson.

Cooper is a well-known figure in Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist circles. He is immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. He has also served on a number of Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist committees.

Cooper was nominated by Matt Buckles, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg. The nomination was seconded by Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus. There were no other nominations.

Cooper replaces Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, who is completing his second term as president and is not eligible for reelection. Henderson recently announced his retirement from the pastorate.

Carthage Pastor Joel Medina made Mississippi Baptist history twice during the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) when, as the convention's first vice-president, he became the first Hispanic to preside over a convention session on November 1 and then was elected by acclamation to his first full



IN SESSION — Messengers and guests at the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention November 1-2 at First Church, Jackson, sing out in praise to the Lord. The annual meeting traditionally consists of worship, preaching, testimonies, Bible studies, and attending to the business of the convention for the coming year. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

term as MBC first vice-president on November 2.

Medina is pastor of Iglesia Internacional Los Americas in Carthage and also pastors a number of Hispanic church plants in central Mississippi. He was the convention's first-ever Hispanic officer when he was elected second vice-president in 2004, and he moved up to first vice-president later in the year when Thad Moore resigned his Meridian pastorate to accept the call to pastor a church in Arkansas.

Barry Corbett, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, nominated Medina, and the nomination was seconded by Ken Cook. There were no other nominations.

Gayle Alexander, pastor of First Church, Baldwyn, was nominated for second vice-president by Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula. It was not clear who seconded the nomination, but no other nominations were made and Alexander was elected by acclamation.

Recording Secretary Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clarke Venable Church,

Decatur, was reelected by acclamation and Michael Weeks, assistant recording secretary and pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was also reelected by acclamation.

International Mission Board (IMB) worker Carrie McDonnell told the hushed crowd on the evening of November 1 about being ambushed by insurgents near Mosul, Iraq, while she, her husband, and IMB workers were searching for locations for water wells. Her husband and co-workers were killed, and McDonnell suffered severe and lasting wounds that have required many surgeries. No one has ever been charged in the murders and assault.

McDonnell expressed surprise that some people seem not to understand that she would readily return to the work that nearly took her life, because of all the lost souls there still in need of the Gospel.

"We must run into the darkness as Christ ran to us (when we were in darkness). May our churches rise up and run into the darkness," she said.

Tommy Hamill, a member of Calvary Church, Macon,

gave his testimony of being captured by Iraqi insurgents during the Iraq War after a running gun battle involving his fuel convoy. He said as time dragged on during his captivity, he always felt the hand of the Lord on him and was sure of his safe return to his wife and family.

Ross Holleyman, a member of Trinity Church, Carthage, also gave a testimony describing how he has coped spiritually with the loss of his son, a member of the U.S. Special Forces, during combat in Iraq.

A special time of testimony was reserved at the annual meeting for pastors of churches devastated by Hurricane Katrina in late August. Among the pastors who shared during the Surviving the Storms segments were:

- Chuck Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport.
- Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula.
- Al Green Jr., pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis.
- LaRue Stephens, pastor of First Church, Long Beach.

(Please turn to MBC on page eight)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Praise, fellowship, business

Mississippi Baptists came together for the 170th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) on November 1-2 at First Church, Jackson, to praise God, fellowship with their brothers and sisters, and agree on the coming year's course for the largest religious organization in the state.

The 1,110 messengers from Mississippi Baptists' 2,110 churches chose as their new president Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, and immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Joel Medina, pastor of Iglesia Internacional Las Americas in Carthage (and pastor of almost too many church plants to count), will serve as first vice-president while Gayle Alexander, pastor of First Church, Baldwyn, will serve as second vice-president.

Gus Merritt, retired pastor from Newton, was chosen to

return as recording secretary, and Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was chosen to return as assistant recording secretary.

All were elected by acclamation, and that says a lot about Mississippi Baptists. Given the dignified manner by which Mississippi Baptists govern themselves, perhaps a brief description of that governance is in order.

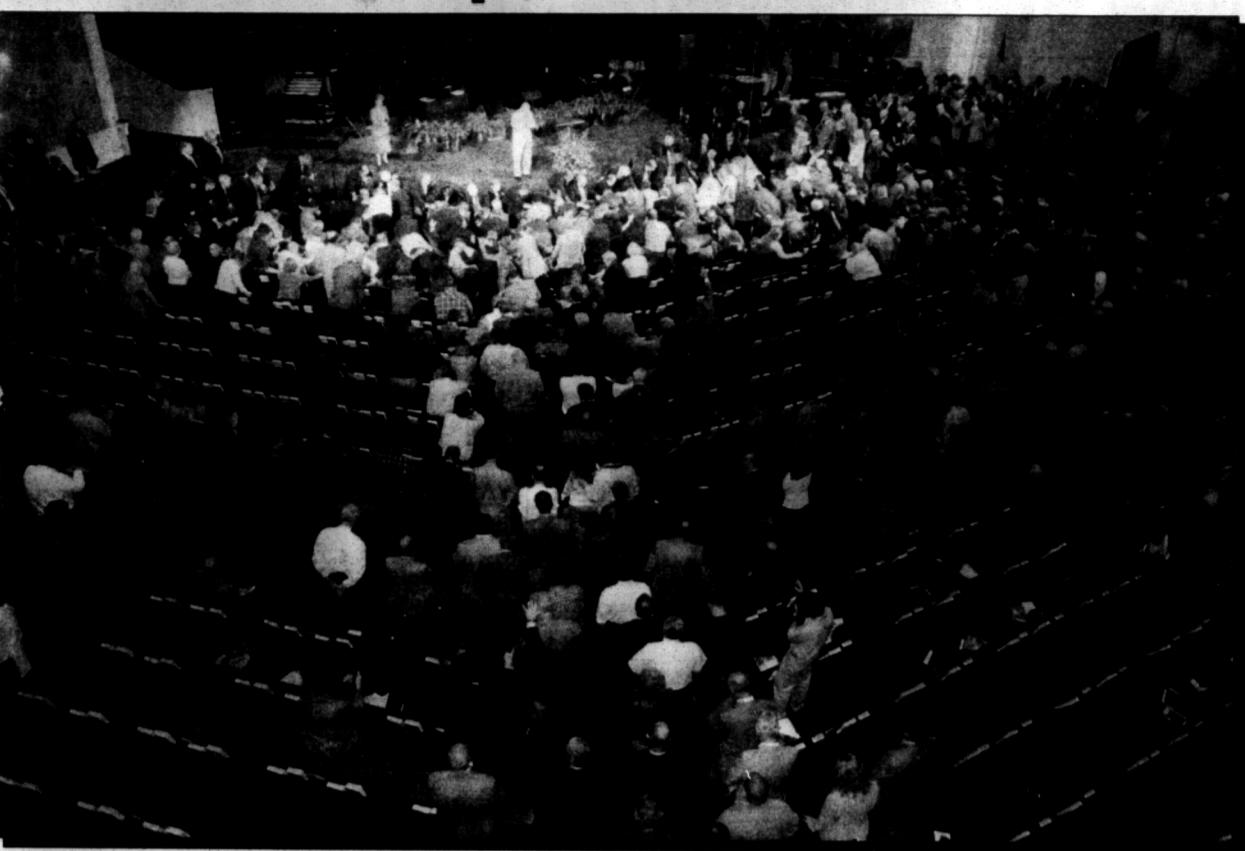
The churches affiliated with MBC send "messengers" to the annual meeting of the organization, to vote on important issues such as the upcoming Mississippi Cooperative Program budget. The Mississippi Baptist Convention is a true bottom-up organization, in which the messengers set the agenda for the convention's work.

There is no pope or bishop or other ecclesiastical office that dictates to Mississippi Baptist churches how to conduct themselves. Each church is independent, and chooses of its own free will to affiliate with the state Baptist convention. (The same is true on the Southern Baptist Convention level, too.)

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has written yet another book — his 20th — and he has hit the media circuit in order to promote his latest project. His book entitled, *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*, represents the former president's return to familiar themes, even as it will add new layers of confusion concerning his actual beliefs and values.

Jimmy Carter makes one central argument in this new book, and that is that America (indeed civilization itself) is under attack by a sinister force. In effect, he argues that a new specter now haunts civilization — the specter of Christian fundamentalism.

Some of the most vitriolic language in *Our Endangered Values* concerns Carter's criticism of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and its leadership. Understandably, Carter blames conservative evangelicals in general and the SBC leaders in particular



LIFTED IN PRAYER — Messengers and guests at the November 1 evening session of the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention crowd the pulpit area of First Church, Jackson, as they pause to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina who attended the convention and are kneeling in front of the pulpit. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The members of churches affiliating with the Mississippi Baptist Convention actually determine the policies and programs of the convention and are responsible for managing the work of the convention, through the messengers they send to the annual meeting. When the full convention is not in session, the work is overseen by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is composed of 100 members of Mississippi Baptist churches, chosen by the Baptist associations of the state (usually organized by single counties or multi-county alliances) and also at large. When the convention board is not in session, the work of the convention is overseen by the board's executive committee.

The executive committee is composed of 16 members chosen from the convention board, by convention board members. When the executive committee is not in session, the work of the convention

is overseen by the convention board's executive director-treasurer, Jim Futral.

There are three associate executive directors to support the executive director-treasurer in overseeing the work of the convention: David Michel, associate executive director for mission strategy; Steve Stone, associate executive director for church growth; and Barri Shirley, associate executive director for resource services.

Now, that may sound more complicated than it really is. Like our country's Founding Fathers, our MBC "Founding Fathers" created a magnificent polity that has served us well over the years. All are represented, and all are accountable.

While similar organizational charts have been used in other places to execute political takeovers and foment strife, Mississippi Baptists long ago decided to put their convention securely above such childish and worldly conduct.

That, too, says a lot about Mississippi Baptists.

Carter has chosen to make this a public issue by writing and releasing this book. This was his decision.

GUEST OPINION:



Latest Carter book offers no solutions

By R. Albert Mohler, president
Southern Seminary — Louisville, Ky.

for his devastating loss to Ronald Reagan in the 1980 presidential election. Indeed, the very evangelicals who had celebrated Carter's election in 1976 abandoned him in 1980 — and for what they saw as compelling reasons.

Over the last several years, Carter has repeatedly declared his departure from the Southern Baptist Convention (a departure made all the more eccentric by the fact that individuals are not members of the Southern Baptist Convention in the first place) and he continues his criticism of the convention's leadership even now.

Carter's moderately liberal theology (more liberal than moderate or more moderate than liberal, depending on his various statements) puts him at odds with the conservative direction of the SBC and with the biblical convictions held by millions of American evangelicals.

Editor's note: This commentary was edited for length. The full text of the commentary can be read at www.albertmohler.com.

Storie family battles hurricane, trusts God



RESTORING HOME — Longtime Jackson County minister Bob Storie spreads a fresh coat of paint on a wall of his home after Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage and volunteers repaired the sheetrock afterward. Storie lost a previous home to Hurricane Georges, but decided to ride out Katrina because of his mother-in-law's advanced age and poor health. (BR photo courtesy of Keith Manuel)

By Keith Manuel
Correspondent

Bob Storie's family has been ministering in Jackson County for almost sixty years. Bob has served as a pastor, port chaplain for 18 years, and is currently the chaplain for the Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula. Who would have thought these last two months would be some of his most challenging?

Bob's 91-year-old mother-in-law, Ezmer Miller, had been extremely sick since May and could not travel, so the family did not evacuate for Hurricane Katrina. Bob lost a home that was only five feet above sea level to Hurricane George, so when his new home was over 18 feet above sea level, the area was not in the federal flood plane, and his home had never flooded before, he felt safe with his family there. He had even dropped his flood insurance last year.

During the morning hours of Katrina, the water rose quickly toward his three-level home, Storie said. "When we realized it was going to come in the house, I told Maudie (his wife) to get her mother up in the kitchen. By the time, [Maudie]

got her there, the water had broken in the back door."

Bob said he and his son-in-law, "barely got it nailed shut before the water got over my head on the back porch. We paddled and waded back through the middle part of the house."

While Bob helped nail the door shut, Maudie moved one of their cars to the middle of the street. "We floated Mrs. Miller out in a rocking chair. We got her blanketed up. She was wet and quivering. It was quite an experience for her and us."

After a grandson called 911, firefighters came to help them get out of their neighborhood. "The firemen came and parked up on the corner... Maudie and I waded out and the firemen carried [Miller] out in a wheelchair in chest deep water."

Miller spent the next few weeks in the hospital and a nursing care facility. Because of her previous illness, she never recovered. She died on October 13, and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery at the end of their street on the bayou.

God has provided for the Storie's needs in the days since the storm. Baptist disaster relief

teams from various parts of the nation have helped remove and replace the sheetrock that sustained damage.

"We prayed, 'Lord, when it comes time to replace the air conditioning unit, please let us have the resources available to do that,'" Bob said. "The resources were there and we had it replaced. It helped get the house dry and kept us cool at the same time."

During the time after the storm, Bob was on call at the hospital. He would split his time between his ministry to the many people who suffered even greater losses than he and repairing his home. As he listened to people tell their stories, he would share the hope from God that he has received.

"God doesn't put on us more

than we are able to bear. God is the only one who can bring something good, into a person's life, out of a tragedy like this," Bob said. "God's grace is sufficient and He answers our needs out of His abundance and based on His abilities and not out of our abilities."

The one verse that has sustained Bob — and that he has shared with others who have suffered from Katrina — is Ephesians 3:20, "[God] is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

Editor's note: Manuel, a native of Ocean Springs, is a former pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, and currently serves as senior pastor of Calvary Church, New Orleans.

Looking back

10 years ago

Fred Tarpley, age 83, a long-time Mississippi church planter, is present at the constituting services for Old Rice Road Church in Madison county. Tarpley has been instrumental in planting 31 churches in the state.

20 years ago

Evelyn Lindsey, charter choir member at Fairview Church, Columbus, will continue making beautiful music thanks to alert choir members who administer CPR after she suffers a heart attack minutes before the Sunday worship service.

50 years ago

R. G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, will address the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Nov. 15-17 at First Church, Jackson, as will Duke McCall, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

BEING NEGATIVE ABOUT BEING NEGATIVE

I must confess to you right up front that I am writing this article against my better desires. I do not like being negative though I am very capable of doing so. I prefer to be positive because if for no other reason I have observed through the years that it is those people who are positive who actually make a difference in life, society, churches, businesses, schools, and wherever you look. The negative folks as a general rule throw out their critical barbs, tear down something, and rarely if ever contribute to building something up. Now with that said permit me for a few minutes to express my negatives about being negative.

The media catches a lot of heat about being negative, and some of it is well deserved but upon examination you would probably find that they are basically just a reflection of us, the way we think, and the way we are. They print the negative because we like the negative and we want the negative. We look, search, and feast on the negative so they provide it for us. The old clique of the print media says, "If it bleeds it leads." Consequently, the car wrecks, murders, tragedies, and the pain and suffering of humanity takes front and center stage while the achievements, awards, and accolades are passed out later.

The negatives about life always seem to be in a dominant position from the writer's point of view and the reader's desire to know those things. So how do Christians deal with the negatives in a positive way? Let me make just a few suggestions that might be helpful.

First of all be honest about the negatives of life. We need not run from reality or join the



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ostrich clan that stick their heads in the sand, but be honest about negative things. Where there is wrong, deficiencies, injustices, and improprieties we need to be open, forthright, and truthful. The problem is that sometimes we become so negative that we can't see. We even get to the place where we are negative about the positive.

Two incidents in the news recently caught my attention as positive, but they were reported as negatives. At the close of the business week one newscaster reported on the Dow Jones Averages this way. "The Dow Jones closed this week five points from being in the loss column." Now you don't have to be a world-class mathematician to figure out that in reality the Dow Jones closed the week five points on the positive side. While that is not a huge increase it is a good thing. Another story was related to the man who was reported to be the number three man in the organization of Al Qaeda. A known terrorist, who had been a part of and masterminded atrocities against us, against his own people and country, was killed in a shootout in Saudi Arabia. One paper carried the story with this headline: "Number One Leader of Al Qaeda Still at Large," and then proceeded to tell that Osama Bin Laden had not been killed or captured. That being true it was also a significant thing that one of the key components of the organization that seeks to

carry out attacks of hate and destruction had been stopped.

The second thing that I would offer as a suggestion for each of us is to learn to be positive about negatives. Where there are negatives find ways to address them, to do something about them, to turn them around, and to make a difference. Simply stating the negative just leaves us all stuck in the mire and the muck of the problem. What can be done about it? What is the solution? Is there anything that I can do? Sometimes as Christians we feel righteous because we express the negative. We feel better about ourselves because we have discovered the wrong. It is at this point that we as God's people cannot stop. We serve a God and have a Savior who is redemptive, has remedies, reaches out to make a difference, and so must we. If you want to find the negative, there will always be something there for you to discover. In the best of church situations there will be something about which you can be negative. The music is too loud. The sermon is too long. The temperature is too cold. The children are too rowdy. The church grounds are not being kept properly. The people are not friendly. The message is too deep. The message is too shallow. There are too many announcements. They never tell us what is happening. The list goes on, but the question is what can be done about something that has the negative spotlight on it or does

anything need to be done? In searching for the positive about the negative, we often discover that what needs to take place is something within us rather than something out there.

A final consideration about dealing with the negatives comes from the Apostle Paul, who under the inspiration of the Spirit writes to tell us to spend most of our time focused on the good things, the God things, and the glorious things of life. Listen to this incredible list of ideas and issues toward which our energies should flow. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report — if there be any virtue, if there be any praise — think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

If this spirit captures our hearts, rather than putting a negative spin on the positive things, we will learn to put a positive spin on the negative things. Thank goodness there are many of these kinds of folks in our world. I ran into one recently at a restaurant. As I was paying my bill the lady said, "Sir, I gave you your senior adult discount." Jokingly I said to her, "Lady, why in the world did you do that? I am only 42 years old." With a big smile on her face and a sweet spirit that filled up the place she said, "I know, but you look like such a nice man." I do not remember what I ate at the restaurant, but I continue to remember how the sweet spirit of that lady made me feel.

Today as you run into the negatives of life let the sweet spirit of Jesus flow through you.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



YOU CAN RESPOND
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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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So. Baptists posting new records for disaster relief

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief announced November 2 that volunteers have prepared a record 10.5 million meals since Hurricane Katrina made landfall in late August. The meal count shatters the previous record of 3.5 million meals set in 2004 during the busy hurricane season that year.

In one of the most active hurricane seasons in U.S. history, however, more than 9,000 Southern Baptist volunteers from 41 state conventions have been deployed this year following hurricanes Katrina in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama; Rita in Texas and Louisiana, and Wilma in Florida.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force has served a sizable amount of the total meals prepared in Mississippi since setting up the Task Force's massive mobile kitchen in the parking lot of First Church, Biloxi, one day after the storm made landfall. Chain saw and mud-out crews also continue to be active across the Gulf Coast.

"The milestone of more than 10 million prepared meals in the recent response to hurricanes exceeds the expectation of most any national, state, or associational leader within Southern Baptist Disaster Relief," said Jim Burton, who coordinates the Baptists' network.

"To go from 'buddy burners' in 1967 in the response to Hurricane Beulah to massive tractor-trailer and other feeding units today reflects the commitment across the Southern Baptist Convention to meet the needs of disaster victims."

"Those 10 million plus meals represent a renewal amongst our people to be on mission with God in North America. Disasters throw the gates of North American missions wide open, and our people have sacrificially carried the banner of Christ to their neighbors in need," Burton said.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisaster-relief@mbcb.org.

Gifts to the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief fund so far total more than \$10,601,734. It was announced Nov. 1 that monetary donations to the North America Mission Board for disaster relief also have surpassed all previous



MUDDING OUT — Rowland Smith, a member of Parker Church, Bruce, tears out a section of moldy wallboard from a Biloxi home swamped by the flooding that accompanied Hurricane Katrina. Smith was part of a Calhoun Association volunteer team that worked along the Gulf Coast in "mud-out" — removing sediment, debris, ruined wallboard, wet insulation, and soaked carpet. (BP photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

records. Donations received so far top \$18 million, with much of the money already sent to areas devastated by the hurricanes to minister to needs of individuals and Southern Baptist churches and to share Christ.

Currently, 365 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units are engaged in preparing meals and in cleanup and recovery efforts. Volunteer days donated total 121,283 since August and 14,073 jobs have been completed by volunteers.

Southern Baptist volunteers continue to serve in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas in areas affected by hurricane devastation, including:

Mississippi

Bay St. Louis; First Church, Salvation Army warehouse, Bay Vista Church and SA Yankee Stadium, Biloxi; Grace Memorial Church, Pass Road Church and Gulf Coast Association, Gulfport; Hattiesburg; Long Beach; Temple Church and New Horizon Church, Moss Point; First Church, Ocean Springs; and First Church and Jackson County Association, Pascagoula.

Florida

First Church, Belle Glade; Boca Glades Church, Boca Raton; former discount store, Clewiston; Salvation Army kitchen, Fort Lauderdale; First Church, Hallandale; First Church, Homestead; Fifth Street Church, Key West; First Church, La Belle; Miami Dade Public Works, Miami; West Kendall Church, Miami; First Church, Naples; Opa Locka Airport; First Church, Pompano Beach; First Church, Stuart; Sweetwater; and Haverhill Church, West Palm Beach.

Louisiana

Calvary Church, Algiers; First Church, Belle Chasse; First Church, Kenner; East Bayou Church, Lafayette; Salvation Army, LaPlace; Camp Living Waters, Loranger; Metairie Church; First Church, New Orleans; First Church/New Jerusalem, Pearl River; First Church, Slidell; Alerio Center, Westwego; Sports Complex, DeQuincy; Dry Creek Camp, DeRidder; First Church, Lake Charles; Maplewood Church, Sulphur; and First Church, Vinton.

Texas

Wooster Church, Bay Town; Calvary Church and Salvation Army, Beaumont; Hillcrest Church, Jasper; Simon Recreation Center, Nacogdoches;

Orange; Port Arthur; Sabine Pass; and First Church, Vidor.

Disaster relief information including downloadable videos are posted regularly at www.mbc.org and www.namb.net.

Committee seeks nominations for new executive director

The committee charged with recommending a new executive director-treasurer to lead with the Baptist state convention of North Carolina is seeking recommendations or nominations to the post. Neither you nor your nominee is required to be a North Carolina Baptist. Include as much information about the candidate as you can.

Recommendations must be postmarked by Nov. 21, 2005 and mailed to: PO Box 2135, Carey, NC 27512. Committee chairman Robert Jackson's email address is pastor@peninsulabaptist.com.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Addy Baptizes Late, Sunrise Church, Leake Association



1. Addy Baptizes Watkins, Sunrise Church, Leake Association



2. Deacon Ordination, Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove



3. Perfect Attendance, Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs



4. Women on Mission, First Church, Sand Hill



5. Margaret Lackey Fundraiser, Washington Church, Washington



6. Groundbreaking Ceremony, Pineview Church, Clinton



7. Atkins Pinned, Harrisburg Church

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Deacon Ordination, Janice Church, Janice



11. Deacon Ordination, Antioch Church, Neshoba Association



12. Perfect Attendance, New Hope Church, Foxworth



13. Margaret Lackey Fundraiser, Tishomingo Church, Tishomingo



10. **Janice Church, Janice**, ordained Robert Martin as deacon Aug. 14. Shown are Dean Cook, Martin, and Bob Goolsby.

11. **Antioch Church, Neshoba Association**, ordained Joel Embrey as deacon Oct. 9. Shown are James Young, Cody Embrey, Harleigh Embrey, Embrey, and Kim Embrey.

12. **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, recognized the following for perfect Sunday School attendance, from left: Jimmy Thomas, 36 years; Nancy Thomas, 21 years; Lynn McKenzie, three years; Dillon Smith, one year; Sherrell Magee, 24 years; Chase Clark, 9 years; Hubert Turnage, 1 year; Betty Pittman, 6 years; B. B. Stringer, 50 years; and pastor Tim Parker. Parker presented Stringer with a special plaque from the church.

13. Robbie Crane, pastor of **Tishomingo Church, Tishomingo**, is shown wearing a red hat in response to a challenge issued by church WMU director Amelia Higginbotham. Crane was challenged to wear the hat should the church reach its \$1,200 goal for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. The church raised \$2,293.50.

14. Barry Ward, left, pastor of **First Church, Magnolia**, baptized Ed Gaudin in the Tangipahoa River.

15. **Beulah Church, Newton County**, recognized the following for perfect Sunday School attendance: Front, Will Motley and Laverne Chaney, 28 years; back, Elton Bryan, 12 years; Neal Motley, 36 years; and Barbara Harrison, 23 years. Neal Motley has had perfect attendance since birth.

16. **Stanley Downs, Bay Springs**, is available for ministry opportunities. Call (601) 764-3610 or 670-1527, or email at angels5@bayspringstel.net.



14. Baptism at Tangipahoa River, First Church, Magnolia



15. Perfect Attendance, Beulah Church, Newton County

17. **Itawamba Baptist Association** is sponsoring a World Crafts party Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., at the associational office. All Itawamba Baptist women are invited.

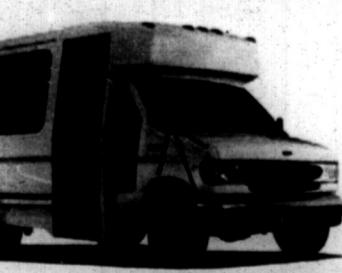
18. **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, will present their singing Christmas tree pageant, Star of Bethlehem, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.; Dec. 10, 3 and 7

p.m.; and Dec. 11, 3 p.m. Ticket reservations can be made beginning Nov. 13 at (601) 925-6400 or on the church website at www.morrisonheights.org.

19. **Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur**, will host An Evening with Rita Sweat: The Innkeeper's Wife, Nov. 19, 6 p.m. For child-care reservations, call (601) 635-2828.

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Resolutions approved by MBC messengers

Resolutions approved on November 2 by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) included:

No. 1 — RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the one-hundred-seventieth annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the beneficiary of the gracious hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, we the messengers of the one-hundred-seventieth annual session have been blessed, guided, and challenged by the informative and inspirational program planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the several officers and committees:

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that we express grateful appreciation to:

1. The members and staff of First Baptist Church;

2. The speakers, singers, and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention;

3. Dr. Gene Henderson, our Convention President, who has led in his second year as president with an emphasis upon ACTS 1:8 THE FINAL COMMAND: Empowering God's People, Expanding God's Kingdom.

4. All of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully as a labor of love.

No. 2 — RESOLUTION TO REDUCE SMOKING IN MISSISSIPPI

WHEREAS, human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, individuals are endowed with great dignity and inestimable value; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,700 Mississippians die horrible but preventable deaths caused by tobacco addiction each year, and more suffer from tobacco-caused disability and disease; and

WHEREAS, every year 9,300 Mississippi children become addicted to tobacco and 81,600 children alive today will die early from smoking-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke in the home, workplace, restaurants, and other public areas endangers thousands of Mississippians every year; and

WHEREAS, smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined — and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes, such as fires caused by smoking and smokeless tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's health care expenditures caused by tobacco totals over \$622 million each year, including more than \$243 million in annual tobacco-caused expenditures by the State Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry spends \$200 million annually in the State of Mississippi to entice Mississippians to use its products; and

WHEREAS, in a resolution the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 21-22, 2005, commanded the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Lung Association and other health organizations along with jurisdictions who have taken measures to raise the price of tobacco products through tax increases; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention supports efforts to prevent and reduce smoking and other tobacco use in Mississippi, particularly among children and teens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to educate and inform our youth as to the dangers of tobacco use; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our state government to continue funding of programs designed for prevention and cessation of tobacco use and to work to create a smoke-free environment in all public places, including restaurants and bars; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to seek ways to help alleviate this destructive problem through personal and community efforts and by encouraging our elected officials to take aggressive actions in reducing smoking in our state.

No. 3 — RESOLUTION ON EXPANSION OF LAND-BASED CASINOS

WHEREAS, Mississippi Baptists have historically opposed gambling as a viable revenue producer and since gambling is a moral wrong that dishonors one's neighbor (Mark 12:31) and goes against the principles of God's word (I Timothy 6:10); and

WHEREAS, gambling does not create wealth but rearranges existing wealth; and

WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour said during his recent campaign for governor of the State of Mississippi that he opposed the expansion of gambling into new areas; and

WHEREAS, immediately after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, Governor Haley Barbour and our legislators expanded gambling by allowing land-based casinos which will result in bigger casinos while Mississippians were denied a vote on this decision; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mississippi Baptists thank those Senators and Representatives who voted against land-based casino expansion; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage Governor Barbour, our Senators, and our Representatives to oppose the false promise of financial gains from gambling, to resist the further expansion of gambling, and to lead our state to depend on God Almighty and not gambling for our future economic recovery and growth.

No. 4 — RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the one-hundred-seventieth Mississippi Convention adopt a resolution giving thanks to those who have and will come to the aid of Mississippi Baptist in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Due to the fact that assistance is still forthcoming the committee also recommends that Dr. Jim Futral, Executive Director-Treasurer, and the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board be authorized to write such resolutions at the proper time and forward those resolutions to appropriate individuals, State Conventions, and Southern Baptist entities.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Antioch Church, Union: Revival, Nov. 13-16, 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, Corinth, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; James Young, pastor.

Fairview Church, Indianola: Homecoming, Nov. 20, 10:30-noon, followed by lunch.

Horseshoe Church, Tchula: Homecoming, Nov. 13; worship, 11 a.m. followed by fellowship and dinner on the grounds; Robert Self, speaker.

Harrisville Church, Harrisville: Revival, Nov. 13-16; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Garland McKee, speaker; Steve Walker, music.

New Harmony Church, Philadelphia: Revival, Nov. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, speaker; Charlie Womble, music; Dewey Moore, pastor.

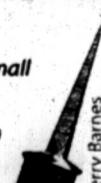
New Sight Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Nov. 17-20; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Webb Armstrong, speaker; Jerry Williams, music; Brady Steve White, pastor.



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MBC (continued from page one)

The Convention Sermon was preached by Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus. Other keynote speakers included:

- Gene Henderson, who delivered his final President's Address.

- Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fl., and former two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- Thom Rainer, president-elect of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, who delivered the Bible Treasures series.

- Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), who presented the MBCB Emphasis — a tribute to the tens of thousands of volun-

teers who have worked on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Katrina.

Music was provided by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra of First Church, Brandon; Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra of Fairview Church, Columbus; Mississippi Singing Churchmen; and Mississippi College Singers.

The 1,110 messengers to the 2005 MBC annual meeting adopted a 2006 Cooperative Program budget of \$31,314,491.

The 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be held on October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson. The Convention Sermon will be delivered by Chuck Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport.

Miss. pastors gather in Jackson for annual conference

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptist pastors from across the state gathered October 31 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, for the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, an annual tradition held the day before the beginning of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Albert Wilkinson, pastor of East End Church, Columbus, kicked off the conference with a sermon from 2 Timothy 1:1. "If we want to get prayer back in our schools, we need to get prayer back in our homes," he said.

Wilkinson was followed by Tommy Mitchell, pastor of Agricola Church, Agricola, who preached from Isaiah 6:1-8. "People are not going to be convinced about God, if we are not convinced about God," he stressed.

Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, closed the afternoon session with a sermon from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. "The focus of Paul's life was not the thorn in his flesh but the grace of God in his life," he pointed out.

Randy Davis, pastor of First Church, Sieverville, Tn., opened the evening session with a sermon from John 12:32-33. "Hypercalvinism is just as much a threat to the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) today as liberalism was a generation ago. 'All' mean everybody," he declared.

Retired pastor Fred Wolfe, president of Barnabas Ministries in Orange Beach, Al., preached from Psalm 91. "God did



NEW PRESIDENT — Joe Turner (center), pastor of First Church, Horn Lake, will serve for the coming year as president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference. Welcoming Turner are Don Boone (left), former pastor of First Church, Louisville, and currently a vocational evangelist in Mobile, immediate past president; and Shannon Marshall, pastor of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, president-elect. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

not call us to be 'Dr. Phil' and preach the philosophy of men, but to preach the everlasting Word of God," he said.

Jerry Vines, a former SBC president who has announced his retirement as pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fl., preached the final sermon of the conference from Philippians 3:12-15. "God has

not put us in the race to bite the dust, but to hit the tape (at the finish line)," he pointed out.

Steve and Becky Carver of One Way Ministries in Louisville provided worship leader-

ship, along with Danny Wolfe of Huntsville, Al.

Joe Turner, pastor of First Church, Horn Lake, succeeded Don Boone, former pastor of First Church, Louisville, and currently a vocational evangelist in Mobile, as president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference. Shannon Marshall, pastor of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, was chosen as president-elect.

Turner announced that the 2006 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference will feature:

- Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Oklahoma City, and former pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven.
- Al Meredith, pastor of Wedgewood Church, Ft. Worth.
- Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tn.
- Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans.
- Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- A special message from Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and retired pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tn.

The 2006 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference will be held October 30 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. For more information, contact Turner at 3505 Goodman Road W., Horn Lake, MS 38637. Telephone: 662-393-7620. E-mail: fbchornlake@hotmail.com.

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COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLLERVILLE, TENN., is now accepting resumes for a full-time senior pastor. For further information, see www.covenantontheweb.org. Email resume to general@covenantontheweb.org or mail to pastor search committee, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collerville, TN 38207 by December 15, 2005.

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SEEKING FULL-TIME EDUCATION/YOUTH MINISTER with God-filled spirit, passion for education and desire to lead growing youth group. Two years college preferred, three years experience required. Send only new resumes by 11/19/05 to search committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232.

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION AVAILABLE. Part-time youth minister needed Sunday services, Wednesday night and general youth activities. Grandview Baptist Church, 900 S. Pearson Road, Pearl, MS 39208. Call or fax resume to church office at (601) 939-4215.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, Terry, Miss., is accepting applications for a permanent part-time secretary. Bookkeeping and computer knowledge a must. Send resumes c/o Jo Bridgers, Personnel Dir., 14173 Midway Rd, Terry, MS 39170.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PICAYUNE, MISS., is seeking a full-time children's minister. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 477, Picayune, MS 39466, attn: personnel committee.

SPRINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for the position of part-time minister of music and youth. Please submit resume to: Personnel Committee, c/o Springdale Baptist Church, 28314 Attala Hwy. 19, West, MS 39192.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

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BI-VOCATIONAL/PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. We stand in need of a dynamic and energetic children's minister to serve along side loving parents in a setting that includes new building space & children ranging from preschool-8th grade. Resumes accepted through December 1st. Send information to: Richmond Baptist Church, children's committee, 2243 Rd 814, Tupelo, MS 38804 or email claynell@aol.com.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Oct. 24-Nov. 4

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Mrs. Blanche F. White
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe

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Mrs. Jewel Baker
Ms. Elizabeth J. Smith
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Max & Mary Ball
Glen & Annette Fortenberry
Mr. Grady Cutrer Jr.
Mrs. Mera Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph B. Buckley
Mr. John D. Jayroe
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
Doris Fanning Macsherry
Mrs. Gwen Powell Smith
Mrs. Janis McDowell
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
Dorothy Powell

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Mr. & Mrs. Carl DeLoach & Lindsey
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward
Robert Ainsworth
Mrs. Joe D. Roberts
May Bell Allen
Ms. LaDell Graham
Mrs. Pearlie Amacker
The Lamont Jarrell Family
Ellis Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel O. Anderson
Ashley Andrews
Pine Grove Baptist Church

Jacky Balof
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents Jr.
Mrs. Virginia Malone Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Caldwell
Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson
Mrs. Avis G. Taylor
Mrs. Dorothy L. Walley
Ms. Catherine Ingram
Mrs. Virgin B. Malone
Mr. W. E. Barnes Jr.
Sherrell Shriver
Brenda M. Young
Maurice L. Malone
Mrs. Nellie Batchelor
Mrs. Era C. Peters
Mildred Beard
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Bilbo
Mrs. Norma Beddingfield
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mrs. Fred Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Marjorie "Margie" Sue Bennett
Stuart & Philene Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Brother of Mrs. Estelle Black
Bovina Baptist Church
Mrs. Dorothy Brock
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Conquerors SSC, FBC-Durant
Charlie Burch
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Yates
Mrs. Robbie Butler
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon
Mrs. Tommie Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Fred R. Clark
Cewilla Campbell
Adult SSC, Dublin BC-Carson
Edith Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Lane White
Joey Case
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Versie Case
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Sherrie Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel O. Anderson
Delos L. Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Dan R. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Conerly
Ms. Camille Stokes Conerly
Nevilla Conerly
Ms. Camille Stokes Conerly
Clyde Connell
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Julia K. Dambrino
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Mr. Troy Davis, Jr.
Spring Hill Baptist Church
John Delancy
Steve Murphy's Adult III SSC
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Carl Douglas
Bill & Helen Toler
Pearl Driggs
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip B. Murray
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Mrs. Nancy G. Parker
Mr. Richard B. Ellis
Barbara Ball
Lance Ball
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Toby B. Mitchell
Mr. James Farish
Frances Hammer
Ashley Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King

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Maggie Jourdan Fikes
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Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Galloway
Mr. Jimmy Gibbs
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Richardson
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Mrs. Rebecca B. Gaddis
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Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project



The Baptist Children's Village for the 3rd year will be partnering with Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization headed by Rev. Franklin Graham. This project provides shoeboxes filled with gifts and candy for children in need around the world. These gifts are given and the gospel is shared with children who have never received a Christmas gift or heard the truth about Jesus Christ. This project is also a mission project for The Baptist Children's Village residents. Many the residents volunteer in the relay center and are learning how important it is to serve others. The collection dates are November 14-21. For more information contact Chrystelle Thames at The Baptist Children's Village at 601.922.2242 or cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or go to www.samaritanspurse.org.



COFFEE BREAK — (Left to Right) Jimmy Porter and Rebecca Williams recently enjoyed a cup of coffee served by Chrystelle Thames, BCV Director of Public Relations, at The Baptist Children's Village booth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (BCV photo by Celeste Cade)

Mrs. Ezmer B. Miller
Charles Benton
Slick Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Don Evans
Mama Moore
Ms. Dot Ward
Bernell Nevels
Siloam Baptist Church
Mrs. Mildred Nolan
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Grubbs
Ms. Johnnie Mae Hall
Mrs. William Nolan
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Kathy Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Allred
Larry Pigg
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Young
Homer Earl Pitts
Present Day Club, Calvary BC-Wayne
Tommy & Judy Roberts
Jesse L. Powell
Mrs. Gwen Powell Smith
Victoria Pozzi
Hon. Cynthia D. Davis
Mrs. Bernice Purvis
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Chris Ramshur
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Kenneth Ramshur
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Mallory Rawson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronny McCarty
Scotty Rawson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronny McCarty
Sandy Rials
Stencil Drive Hunters
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Alexander
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Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell R. Crosby
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Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Saucier
Mrs. Louise Scott
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Dannette Seals
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Mrs. Freida S. Shack
Mr. & Mrs. Albert N. Hemphill
Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Humphreys
Ms. Joanne T. Smith
Mrs. Willie S. Jones
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Mrs. June D. Shepard
Doris Shields
Mrs. Annis Goss
Mrs. Inez Shivers
Mrs. Ruby Jean Kennedy
Edna SSC, Liberty BC-Newton
Ann Smith
Timmy & Linda Shaw & Family
Mrs. David Smith

BCV Current Needs:

turkeys
dressing
cranberry sauce
canned vegetables
cake mixes
cake icing
frozen pies
walnuts/pecans
chocolate chips
seasonings/spices
rolls
tea bags
Kool-aid
granulated/brown/
powdered sugar

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Carefully Evaluate Explanations

Job 4:6-8; 5:27; 8:4-8; 11:13-15; 13:20-24

Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, many have labeled her an act of God's judgment upon Mississippi for the many casinos that occupy our Gulf Coast. While certainly a possibility, this is an unlikely theory. After all, the casinos will be rebuilt long before houses, hotels, and hospitals are fully repaired. They will be rebuilt bigger and brighter than ever and even further inland than before. Is it possible that Katrina was not intended to reveal the wrath of God at all, but rather the witness of God's people? Could it be that Hurricane Katrina was meant to be an opportunity for God's people to display his love like never before? We often assume the worst rather than the best, and when tragedy strikes we are quick to attribute it to God's judgment. Simplistic, blanket explanations however, are inadequate to explain life's tragedies.

Our explanations fall short of conveying God's purposes for allowing tragedy and suffering. All of Job's friends shared a common belief that Job's adversity came because he was guilty of sin. Their explanations clearly show mankind's inability to explain suffering accurately.

Responsibility — 4:6-8; 5:27

According to Eliphaz, Job was responsible for his suffering. Job's suffering was evidence of God's justice. He asks Job, "who has ever perished being innocent?" "When has God ever cut off the upright?" Eliphaz, appealing to God's justice, argued that Job simply had received what he deserved. He was responsible for the sufferings he had experienced. Scripture, however, testifies to the righteousness and holiness



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of Job. It is clear that Job's pain and suffering were not deserved in the sense of God's justice. While, in some cases, adversity is the result of God's justice, it is inaccurate to explain all adversity as the result of God's justice.

Retribution — 8:4-8

Bildad, attempting to explain Job's suffering, appealed to a tradition which stated that bad things happen to bad people. He argued that what happened to Job and his children was a consequence of their sins. Bildad had oversimplified God's pattern of retribution. It is true that plowing and sowing iniquity reaps judgment, so Bildad was partially right (Galatians 6:7-9; 1 Peter 3:12), but not every thing we reap in life is the result of something we have sown. Jesus made that clear in John 9:1-3 when he declared that neither the blind man's sin, nor his parents' sin was responsible for his blindness. To say that wherever there is suffering, it is the result of sowing sin, is wrong.

Reasoning — 11:13-15

Zophar, attempting to explain Job's suffering, appealed to human reasoning. Zophar advised Job to be reasonable by doing three things. First Job should commit his heart to the Lord, or prepare his heart. Second, Job should confess (v. 13b). He should stretch out his hands to God in prayer for forgiveness. Finally, Job should cast away (v. 14) his sin. He should put his sin far away not allowing any more to enter his tent. If Job would do these things, according to Zophar, he would be blessed. If he didn't repent, he would die. The "if, then" pattern in these verses was an appeal to reason. Like Eliphaz and Bildad, Zophar was wrong in not understanding that God allows unpredictable and seemingly unfair suffering for reasons unknown to us. Logical explanations about suffering can be flawed because no one can know all the facts of any particular case.

Rejection — 13:20-24

Job rejected the explanations of his friends and declared his desire to bring his case directly

before God. He wanted to reason with God and plead his case. He asked God to end his pain and speak to him. He wanted God to tell him how many iniquities and sins he was guilty of so that he could repent for sins he was unaware of. Job's appeal was flawed because he thought his suffering was the result of a divine miscarriage of justice. What Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar didn't know, we do know from the Scriptures. These circumstances were not Job's responsibility and they were not God's retribution. They went beyond human reasoning. These events took place for a heavenly reason. The bandwagon that explains all tragedy as the result of God's wrath may be full of preachers, teachers, and theologians, and still be headed in the wrong direction. Rather than spending all of our time inadequately explaining the cause of, and reason for, the wounds in the world, we must ensure that we are carrying the cure into all the world!

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Christ have that same power. Isn't that just awesome? And this is an awesome Bible verse: "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

Christians who follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit let Him show them what is the right way to live, and also what things to stay away from. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (v. 14) Dear God, Help me to be still and recognize that your Spirit is within me. Let me be aware of the amazing power that is available for me to be bold in sharing your love. May your Holy Spirit be alive and a part of my life each day as I gladly follow His leadership. In Jesus' Name. Amen. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Led By The Spirit"

Romans 8:1-14



Davis

sparkling diamonds! The ring's value to me was worth more than any money amount. It represented Charles' love to me and we were so happy together. I believe God heard our prayers and His Holy Spirit (His earthly Helper) led me to locate my ring.

Take up the Spirit's Mind-set, (Romans 8:1-8) — When we have our mind greatly interested in something, our mind is "set" to obey our intent. Chapter eight of Romans is a continuation of chapter seven. Paul repeats his message of the two words, flesh and spirit, to prove that the power of the gospel did what the law was not able to do; deliver men from condemnation. "No condemnation" means none possible...

forever! Some of the people set their minds on the flesh, which only led to selfish desires. (v. 5) Others set their minds on things of the Spirit; they were blessed with a peaceful life. (v. 6) Paul says in verse seven that when a Christian decided to go against God's plan, his life spiraled downhill causing frustration. But a Christian filled with the Spirit will enter into a life of victory. (Barclay)

"And I (God) will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." (Ezekiel 36:27)

Move in the Spirit's Direction, (Romans 8:9-11) — Romans 8:9 describes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If you belong to God, His Spirit lives within you. Sin is dead in you, but the Spirit of God is alive in you. (V. 10) Jesus came into our world as a newborn baby. Although he had a

human nature, he lived a perfect life. We were born, yet we will never be perfect. But, when Jesus was crucified, died and was buried, God raised Him from the dead and now if we believe and repent of our sins, God's Spirit lives in us.

Follow the Spirit's Leadership, (Romans 8:12-14) — I hope you are personally familiar with the Holy Spirit. He helps us in many ways. When we pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us: "The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:26) Verse thirteen tells of the Spirit-led life. The day of Pentecost was an important day in the life of a Jew. It was the end of the grain harvest. A great feast marked the celebration. But Pentecost to a Christian means that the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus in a special way. God's Spirit came upon the whole fellowship of Christians and released on them the power to witness to a lost world! (Hobbs) Today, those of us who profess

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Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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